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SENT PRIORITY BONN 134 REPEATED INFORMATION DEPARTMENT 150
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REFERENCE OURTELS 127 AND 131 TO BONN

1. GENERAL HAMLETT CALLED ON SOVIET COMMANDANT GENERAL ZAKHAROV THIS MORNING. AFTER INITIAL EXCHANGE OF AMENITIES, FORMER REFERRED TO EXCHANGE OF COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING RECENT VOPO INCURSION INTO STEINSTUECKEN AND STATED THAT HE FOUND TWO ASPECTS OF SOVIET REPLY UNACCEPTABLE. TO BEGIN WITH, SOVIET DENIAL OF RESPONSIBILITY COULD NOT BE ACCEPTED SINCE IT INVOLVED ATTEMPT UNILATERALLY TO RENOUNCE OBLIGATIONS DERIVING FROM QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENTS TO WHICH SOVIET UNION A PARTY. HE FELT IT NECESSARY TO STATE STRONGLY FOR RECORD THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO HOLD SOVIETS ACCOUNTABLE BY VIOLATIONS OF KIND IN QUESTION.

2. AS TO ACTUAL FACTS OF STEINSTUECKEN INCIDENT, GENERAL HAMLETT NOTED THAT, WHILE AMERICAN AND SOVIET ACCOUNTS OBVIOUSLY DIFFERED IN DETAILS, THERE WAS NO DENYING FACT THAT VIOLATION OF AMERICAN SECTOR BOUNDARY BY VOPO HAD BEEN TAKEN AND THAT PERSON SEEKING REFUGE HAD BEEN FORCED AGAINST HIS WILL TO LEAVE AMERICAN SECTOR. GENERAL HAMLETT ADDED THAT IT WAS IN COMMON INTEREST OF BOTH COMMANDANTS TO AVOID INCIDENTS AND SITUATIONS OF THIS KIND WHICH COULD ONLY LEAD TO MISUNDERSTANDINGS, PRESS PUBLICITY AND INCREASE TENSION IN BERLIN AREA.

3. GENERAL ZAKHAROV SAID THAT HE COULD NOT REALLY ADD MUCH TO REPLY HE HAD ALREADY GIVEN GENERAL HAMLETT ON SUBJECT STEINSTUECKEN. AS LATTER AWARE, SOVIET UNION HAD SIGNED TREATY WITH GDR GIVING LATTER SOVEREIGNTY. HE WAS THEREFORE IN NO

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POSITION TO INTERVENE IN DISPUTE INVOLVING ONLY GERMANS SUCH AS PRESENT CASE. IF SOVIET SOLDIERS HAD BEEN INVOLVED, THEN OBVIOUSLY HE WOULD FEEL COMPELLED TO TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES. WHAT HAD APPARENTLY HAPPENED WAS THAT VOPOS, IN PURSUIT OF CRIMINAL, HAD PERHAPS IN ISOLATED INSTANCE VIOLATED BORDER, BUT APOLOGY FOR THIS ACTION HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE BY VOPO COMMANDER. HE COULD AGREE THAT INCIDENTS OF THIS KIND WERE UNDESIRABLE IN BERLIN CONTEXT AND ONLY MADE MORE DIFFICULT TASK OF MILITARY COMMANDERS.

4. ZAKHAROV SAID HE WISHED TO ASK ONE FINAL QUESTION, NAMELY, HOW ACTION TAKEN BY VOPOS COULD BE SAID TO INVOLVE SOVIET OBLIGATION UNDER QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENTS. TO THIS GENERAL HAMLETT RESPONDED THAT, SINCE AMERICAN SECTOR HAD BEEN VIOLATED AND SECTOR BOUNDARIES ESTABLISHED BY QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENTS, VIOLATION OF THESE BOUNDARIES FROM AREA OF SOVIET CONTROL OBVIOUSLY COULD NOT BE IGNORED BY SOVIETS.

5. GENERAL HAMLETT THEN RAISED QUESTION OF DIFFICULTIES RECENTLY EXPERIENCED ON AUTOBAHN REGARDING DESPATCH OF RELIEF CAR TO ASSIST BROKEN DOWN AMERICAN VEHICLES. HE HAD JUST THIS MORNING RECEIVED COMMUNICATION FROM GENERAL ZAKHAROV CITING CASE OF AMERICAN SERGEANT DELAYED 7 HOURS ON ROUTE FROM MARIENBORN TO BERLIN. ZAKHAROV HAD COMPLAINED THAT THIS REPRESENTED VIOLATION OF PRINCIPLES GOVERNING ALLIED TRAVEL ON AUTOBAHN. SINCE DELAY CAUSED BY BREAKDOWN WHICH SERGEANT UNABLE TO REPAIR HIMSELF, PLUS INABILITY OF AMERICAN RELIEF VEHICLE TO COME TO HIS ASSISTANCE BECAUSE OF SOVIET OBJECTIONS AT CHECKPOINT, GENERAL HAMLETT WAS ABLE EFFECTIVELY BOTH TO ANSWER ZAKHAROV'S COMPLAINT AND TO POINT OUT THAT CASES OF THIS KIND AROSE PRECISELY BECAUSE OF UNREASONABLE REQUIREMENTS AT CHECKPOINT. MADE NO SENSE, GENERAL HAMLETT POINTED OUT, TO HAVE RELIEF VEHICLES TRAVERSE ENTIRE ROUTE FROM BERLIN TO FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND RETURN IN ORDER TO HELP AMERICANS STRANDED ON AUTOBAHN SHORT DISTANCE FROM BERLIN. GENERAL ZAKHAROV CONCEDED SUCH REQUIREMENT NOT NECESSARY AND AGREED WITH GENERAL HAMLETT'S SUGGESTION

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THAT POLITICAL ADVISERS AT MEETING THIS AFTERNOON SHOULD ATTEMPT TO WORK OUT REASONABLE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM. ZAKHAROV COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS OBVIOUSLY KIND OF SITUATION WHICH PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS HAD NOT ADEQUATELY COVERED, AND HE FELT THAT SATISFACTORY SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND.

6. JUST PRIOR TO END OF MEETING ZAKHAROV ASKED WHETHER GENERAL HAMLETT HAD ANYTHING TO ADD TO LETTER WHICH SOVIETS HAD JUST RECEIVED REGARDING SUBJECT MENTIONED PARAGRAPH THREE FIRST REFTEL. HAMLETT SAID NO, AND IN RESPONSE TO QUERY, SAID HE WAS NOT APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY TO CONTINUE FURTHER DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT.

7. SIMILAR MESSAGE BEING SENT USAREUR BY USCOB THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS.

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